

Timely Tidbits ...

Wanted: Information on Area's Overseas Soldiers

The little paper and various civic organizations are looking for information about local soldiers stationed overseas. If you would like your hero to be recognized in the paper and/or to receive care packages, please send his/her name, rank, service branch, and city of residence, along with your name and e-mail address/phone number, to thelittlepaper@comcast.net.

Blood Drive Set

The Taylor Police Department will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, at the former main fire station (11101 Pine Street, just south of City Hall).

Appointments may be scheduled by contacting Marge Maladecki at 734-374-1445, although walk-ins will be accepted, as well.

The Taylor Police Department has received platinum sponsor recognition from the Red Cross for its extensive efforts in organizing blood drives. The police blood drive was recognized as a top Downriver blood drive in 2006, 2007, and 2008 in terms of participants and quantity of blood donated.

Toys for Tots Drive Under Way at TPD

The Taylor Police Department is again a collection site for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive.

Toys will be accepted through December 23 in the lobby of the Taylor Police Station (23515 Goddard Road, just east of City Hall).

Applications to receive toys will be distributed through Friday, December 4, in the Police Administration Office on the station's second floor. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For info, call 734-374-1445.

Season of Lights Musical

Isom Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (23612 Sumpter Road, Belleville) is inviting the public to attend its Season of Lights Musical, "Don't Let Your Light Go Out." The program will be held on Friday, December 11, at 7 p.m.

For info, call 734-461-2200. □

Holiday Happenings Sow Seasonal Spirit



With the help of Jacob Carrer and Mayor Alan R. Lambert, Santa lit the trees in Romulus Historical Park on November 20. Photo by R. E. Kadam

Be sure to set aside time in your busy holiday schedule to take part in some of the following seasonal events.

Taylor

Santa's Magic Forest

Widely considered to be Downriver's finest holiday display, Santa's Magic Forest in the Heritage Park Activity Building (12111 Pardee Road) is a magical winter wonderland of animated characters and scenes and beautiful holiday light displays. Bring the entire family to visit Santa Claus and enjoy live entertainment.

The display will be open weekends through December 20, plus daily December 21–23. Hours through December 20 are 5 to 8 p.m. Fridays, 1 to 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 1 to 7 p.m. Sundays. From December 21–23, hours will be 1 to 7 p.m.

Admission is just \$3 per person; \$2 for senior citizens and children 10 and under. Rosecrans Picture Perfect Photography will provide an optional photo opportunity with Santa for an additional fee. All proceeds from Santa's Magic Forest benefit Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry, a non-profit organization that is operating the holiday display as a fund-raiser to support its continued work of providing food and nourishment to those in need in Taylor and surrounding communities.

For information about Santa's Magic Forest, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 734-374-3906. For information on Fish & Loaves, call 734-778-1611 or visit www.downriverfishandloaves.org.



(From right) After making his official arrival in Taylor on November 28, Santa joined Mrs. Claus, Mayor Jeffrey Lamarand, Lamarand's daughter Jillian, and his wife Mishelle as they walked to the Magic Forest holiday display in the Heritage Park Activity Building. Photo by Dave Gorgon/City of Taylor

Friends of the Taylor Youth Theater Christmas Show

This musical review – called "Christmas Is ..." – features performers ages 4 to 19. Shows will be held at the Sheridan Community Center (12111 Pardee Road) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 6.

Tickets are \$8; \$6 for senior citizens and students. For advance tickets, or more information, call 313-295-6007.

Ballet Americana Presents The Nutcracker

Ballet Americana – Taylor's home dance company – and the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra will join together for the fourth consecutive year to present Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. The endearing holiday classic ballet is a fairy tale brought to life in a magical kingdom with a prince and princess, toy soldiers, and a sugar plum fairy. The award-winning production includes highly skilled performers, including guest artists from the New York Ballet and the Pennsylvania Ballet. The production features large, colorful scenery drops and props, plus beautiful costumes. Performers will be available after the shows for autographs and photos by a giant Nutcracker in the lobby.

Show times are 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, December 5, and 2 p.m. Sunday, December 6. The morning performance is an abridged version for children. Shows will be at the DSA Ford Theater for the Arts Auditorium, located behind Orchestra Hall, with the symphony's parking deck nearby.

For tickets, call 313-576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

Tree Lighting Ceremony and Sing-Along

Bring the family for some old-fashioned holiday fun at the Taylor Conservatory (Northline, just east of Pardee, next to the Heritage Park Petting Farm) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9. Participants can sing carols inside the Petting Farm Visitors Center and sip hot chocolate and cider before moving over to the Conservatory dome, where a 20-foot Christmas tree will be lit. It's all free.

For information on Conservatory activities, call 888-383-4108.

Community Chorus Christmas Concert

The Taylor Cultural Arts Commission will present its 26th annual Taylor Community Chorus Christmas Concert, "Do You Hear What I Hear," at the Sheridan Community Center (12111 Pardee Road) on Friday, December 11, at 7 p.m. The concert will feature solo and small-group performances in addition to songs by the entire chorus under the direction of Mark Ennis.

Tickets are \$5 in advance or at the door. Discounted tickets are available for members of the Taylor Friends of the Arts.

For tickets or more information, call 313-291-7893, visit www.TaylorArts.org, or find the Taylor Cultural Arts Commission on Facebook.

Breakfast with Santa

Children (must be accompanied by an adult) are invited to dine with Santa and Mrs. Claus at this popular holiday event

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Holiday Happenings Sow Seasonal Spirit

(continued from page 1)

that sells out quickly. Programs will be held at both the Lakes of Taylor Golf Club (25505 Northline Road) and the Taylor Meadows Golf Club (25360 Ecorse Road) on Saturday, December 12, at 9 and 11 a.m.

Tickets (available at both pro shops) are \$7 per person; there is no charge for children under two. Photos with Santa will be available for an additional fee, or families may use their own cameras.

For information, call 734-287-2100 or visit www.taylorgolf.com. Please reserve high chairs and booster seats when you purchase your tickets.

Reindeer Days at the Petting Farm

Reindeer Days, a beloved holiday tradition, will return to the Heritage Park Petting Farm (12803 Pardee Road, at Northline Road) as Santa and his real reindeer (including a rare white reindeer named Blizzard) make their annual visit. Santa will listen to the special wishes of all the boys and girls who visit. Other highlights of the event will include holiday music, free crafting in the classroom, and free hot chocolate at the Visitors Center. Flutterby Faces will perform face-painting for an additional fee. Stocking stuffers also will be available for purchase. Don't forget to bring a camera to capture a special holiday moment!

Reindeer Days will be held on Saturday, December 12, and Sunday, December 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is just \$3 for Taylor residents; \$4 for everyone else. Plenty of parking will be available thanks to the free shuttle from the Sheridan Community Center just north of the Petting Farm.

For information, call 734-374-5946.

Santa To Visit Taylor Community Library

Families can visit with Santa Claus, sing seasonal songs, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, and hear holiday stories when the Jolly Old Elf visits the Taylor Community Library (12303 Pardee Road) on Thursday, December 17, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Although the event is free, thanks to sponsorship by the Friends of the Community Library, preregistration (at the Circulation Desk) is required.

For information, call 734-287-4840.

27th Annual Seniors Christmas Party

One of the most popular events at the William D. Ford Senior Citizens Activity Center, the annual Christmas party includes a catered dinner by Veronica's, musical entertainment provided by Solitaire, a gift for everyone, and door prizes.

The event will be held at the Center (6750 Troy Street, west of Telegraph Road and north of Ecorse Road) on Friday, December 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tickets (\$15) must be purchased by Friday, December 11. No tickets will be sold at the door.

For information, call 313-291-7740.

12th Annual True Meaning of Christmas

A group of volunteers will serve free Christmas dinner to anyone – whether alone, less fortunate, or hungry – and their guests. The dinner is open to everybody!

This year's menu will include turkey and all the trimmings, ham, white and sweet potatoes, gravy, corn, salad, beverages and desserts. It will be served at the William D. Ford Senior Citizens Activity Center (6750 Troy Street, west of Telegraph Road and north of Ecorse Road) on Friday, December 25, from noon to 3 p.m.

The holiday dinner is organized by the Domski family, which years ago chose to end its annual gift exchange and put the money toward a meal for anyone to enjoy. The Taylor Police Department and members of the Taylor Governmental Management and Administrative Employees Association are among the contributors.

Last year's Christmas meal drew hundreds of diners – the biggest crowd yet – plus plenty of volunteers.

Those who cannot arrange other transportation to the Ford Center can call for a free ride in advance or on the day of the event. The phone number is 313-291-7740.

Local organizations and churches are asked to spread the word about the free dinner to their members and associates.

New Year's Eve Grand Buffet

A fabulous New Year's Grand Buffet will be served at the Lakes of Taylor Golf Club (25505 Northline Road) on Thursday, December 31, from 4 to 8 p.m. Buffet selections may soon be found online at www.TaylorGolf.com.

Dinner is \$26.95 per person; senior citizens and children pay discounted prices of \$21.95 and \$10.95, respectively. Seating is by reservation only; call 734-287-9001.

Seniors New Year's Party

When: 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, January 8

Where: William Ford Senior Activity Center, 6750 Troy Street, west of Telegraph Road and north of Ecorse Road

What: The first party of the year at the William D. Ford Senior Citizens Activity Center (6750 Troy Street, west of Telegraph Road and north of Ecorse Road) will feature a meal catered by Veronica's, music by Mike Wolverton and his band, a poppin' of the cork at "midnight countdown," non-alcoholic champagne and other beverages, and festive streamers and confetti.

Tickets (\$15) must be purchased by December 30. No tickets will be sold at the door.

For information, call 313-291-7740.

Editor's note: Many more events can be found by visiting the City of Taylor Web site: www.cityoftaylor.com/events.

Romulus

Goodfellows Donations, Applications

On Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, watch the city's busiest intersections for Romulus Goodfellows volunteers, who will be conducting the organization's annual newspaper drive for its "No Child Without a Christmas" mission. If you see a volunteer, please give generously; you'll be helping the less fortunate in your community enjoy a happy holiday.

The Goodfellows will also be accepting donations of cash, gift certificates, winter

apparel, and new, unwrapped toys (among other items) through the next week. Items may be dropped off at Romulus City Hall (11111 Wayne Road) or Fire Station #4 (28777 Eureka Road) during normal business hours. Business owners and civic groups interested in "adopting" a family are being sought, as well. For information, call 734-942-7571.

Romulus residents who would like to receive help from the Goodfellows may fill out an application and return it from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Romulus Police Department (11165 Olive Street) by Friday, December 4.

For information, call the Goodfellows Hot Line at 734-955-4577.

Tree-trimming Party at the Library

The Romulus Public Library's annual tree-trimming party is set for Saturday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m.

Those who attend will enjoy some good, old-fashioned fun (including the stringing of popcorn and cranberries for garland), and will also have a chance to make an ornament.

Other highlights of the program – open to children ages 3 to 12 – will include a pizza treat.

Although there is no charge to participate, preregistration (on a first-come/first-served basis) is required. For information, call 734-942-7589.

Lunch/Story with Santa

Santa Claus will be at the Romulus Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, to share lunch and a story with youngsters.

Cost (includes two pieces of pizza, chips, a craft, and story time) is \$4 per child. Adults who plan to eat lunch must also purchase a \$4 ticket. (Optional) pictures with Santa will be an additional \$2.

Register at the Rec Center (35765 Northline) by Thursday, December 3.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Decorating Contest

If you are a Romulus resident who decorates the outside of your home for the holidays, you're invited to take part in this annual contest. Just register your name, address, and telephone number – or that of a friend/neighbor – by calling the Romulus Recreation Department (734-941-8665) no later than noon on Monday, December 14. Prizes of \$100, \$25, and \$15 will be awarded to the top three finishers.

Romulus residents who don't enter the contest can volunteer to help judge the event. A bus will transport judges around the city on Tuesday, December 15, beginning at 6 p.m. Preregistration is required.

There is no charge to enter or judge.

Youth Holiday Shopping

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation is planning a holiday shopping trip to give youths (ages 6 and up) a chance to buy gifts for their loved ones. This trip to WalMart and the Dollar Store – set for Thursday, December 17 – will depart from the Recreation Department (35765 Northline Road) at 6:15 p.m. and

return at about 8:15 p.m.

Ages 6 to 10 will be assigned a helper; ages 11 and older will be on the buddy system. *Each child will be responsible for holding on to his/her own money!*

A cost of \$5 covers transportation only. Space is limited, so early registration (by Tuesday, December 15, at 5 p.m.) is strongly recommended.

For information, call 734-941-8665.

Santa's Mailbox

Children who "post" letters to Santa in the Romulus Civic League's special mailbox, now on display in front of the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road), will get a personal reply. Don't forget to include a return address!

Deadline is Tuesday, December 22.

Elsewhere

Santa's Workshop; Natural Ornaments (Brownstown Township)

Lake Erie Metropark is offering several holiday-inspired events this month, including Santa's workshops and a "natural ornaments" craft class.

The workshops will feature a visit with St. Nick, a hay wagon ride (dress for the weather), some old-fashioned caroling, and a holiday snack. Events will begin in the Food Bar (near the Wave Pool) on Friday, December 4, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturday, December 5, at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Tickets (\$6 each for adults and children over the age of one) must be purchased in advance at the Lake Erie Metropark office or the Marshlands Museum and Nature Center.

Participants in the "Do-Day" craft program – to be held in the Marshlands Museum and Nature Center on Sunday, December 6, at 2 p.m. – will create unique ornaments using natural items such as galls, elder cones, animal tracks, and winter wildflowers. Fee is \$2 per person. Preregistration is required.

Note that vehicle entry permits (required to enter any Metropark) are \$4 daily.

For information, call 734-379-5020.

For general info, call 800-47-PARKS or visit www.metroparks.com.

Wreath-making; Sunday with Santa (Flat Rock)

Holiday-themed events at the Nature Center at Oakwoods Metropark will include an evergreens class and a visit with Santa.

Participants in the evergreens program – to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 12 – will learn about cone-bearing trees (conifers), then make a decorative wreath using natural materials. Fee is \$5 per person. Preregistration is required.

Sunday with Santa will feature storytelling (*The Polar Express*), Christmas carols, games, crafts, and cookies and cocoa. Choose among 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. sessions on December 13. Tickets (\$5 per person) must be purchased in advance.

Note that vehicle entry permits (required to enter any Metropark) are \$4 daily.

For information, call 734-782-3956.

For general info, call 800-47-PARKS or visit www.metroparks.com. □

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Guest Commentary

Dingell on Breast Cancer Recommendations

Editor's note: The "Guest Commentary" below is based on remarks made by Congressman Dingell at the Subcommittee on Health hearing regarding recent breast cancer screening recommendations issued by the U.S. Preventive Health Services Task Force.

* * *

By Congressman John D. Dingell (D-MI15)

"Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this important hearing today on an issue that has captured the attention of so many American women. Some predict that one in eight women will have invasive breast cancer at some point in her lifetime. This is a disease that affects so many, and I am sure that all Members of this Committee have a loved one that has fought breast cancer. Therefore, it should be no surprise that there has been much interest in the recent U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations on breast cancer screening. There has been much concern with the way the recommendations were communicated to the American people, and there has been some disagreement with the conclusions of the task force. However, we must consider these recommendations in the proper context and not lose sight of the fact that there is strong agreement – across the government, scientific community, advocacy groups, and health professionals – that *screening saves lives* and is most effective when decisions related to screening are made between the patient and their doctor.

"The USPSTF, an outside independent panel of doctors and scientists, has a history of respect. They are not a political body, but one that focuses on science. They provide an incredibly valuable service to patients and physicians across the country, and it is their unbiased assessments that allow for educated, patient-centered discussions about the type of screening, treatment, and care individuals should receive. Without evidence-based guidelines, these types of decisions would be difficult to say the least.

"Based on the evidence to date, the

USPSTF now advises that women between the ages of 40 and 49 should decide on an individual basis whether or not to get periodic mammograms, a change from their 2002 population-wide recommendation that women should get routine screening. Other new recommendations include bi-annual instead of annual mammograms for women age 50 to 74; a statement of insufficient evidence for the need for mammograms for women over 75; and new advice against teaching of breast self-examinations.

"These recommendations were based on scientific studies, not political agendas or cost-cutting measures. Some of the panelists today disagree about the final recommendations, but we can all agree that the evidence to date is inconclusive about the effectiveness of traditional mammogram screenings, especially for women in the age group of 40 to 49. Furthermore, we can all agree that the decisions for these types of diagnostic screenings should be made between individuals and their doctors.

"I want to remind all of my colleagues that our purpose today is not to politicize or attack the USPSTF. Instead, we are here to understand the recommendations, and the science that guided the decision making of the task force.

"Finally, some of my colleagues have tried and will try to twist and mislead the public about the task force recommendations as a means to kill health care reform and advance their own political agendas. As the lead author of H.R. 3962, comprehensive health reform legislation that passed the House last month, let me assure you of the facts:

- *Health care reform will not prevent women from getting mammograms or lead to rationed care.* In fact, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, has stated unequivocally that the task force is an outside body that makes recommendations and not federal policy. She said, 'the task force has presented some new evidence for consideration, but our policies remain unchanged.' Under H.R. 3962, millions more men and women across the country will have access to regular screenings and preventative measures that will help everyone stay healthier, longer; and
- *health care reform will improve the important patient-doctor relationship and decision making abilities.* In fact, these types of evidence-based recommendations enhance patient-centered care. The more doctors and patients know about the effectiveness of screenings, treatments, and services, the more people are able to have personalized care that meets their individual needs. This means the decision to get a mammogram remains in the hands of individual women, not an insurance company." □

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Changes in Taylor Military Museum Will Debut on Pearl Harbor Day



Displays like this one in the American Warriors Museum at Taylor City Hall are being updated for a new unveiling on Pearl Harbor Day. Photo by Dave Gorgon/City of Taylor

After six months of displaying memorabilia of local military heroes, organizers of the Taylor American Warriors Museum are changing some of their displays.

The room of honor, which has attracted thousands of visitors since Memorial Day 2009, will close December 3-4 to allow volunteers to update the displays.

The museum will reopen on Monday, December 7 – the 68th anniversary of the day that President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared December 7, 1941 “a date which will live in infamy.”

The museum is located in Taylor City Hall (23555 Goddard Road). Hours are

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

The first-class museum opened under the guidance of Councilman Herman “Butch” Ramik to honor servicemen and servicewomen. Since then, organizers have received many more contributions that have been sorted and prepared for display.

All items are considered to be on loan from the families that donate the items to the museum.

Anyone interested in adding to the collection, making a donation to help fund the museum, or volunteering to serve as a host may call 734-374-8775. □

Pistons Join Food Bank To Feed Hungry

Hundreds of area families received food and personal items from New Dimensions Outreach Food Bank in Taylor thanks to money raised during the 2009 Detroit Pistons Care Telethon in support of Feed The Children.

Food was delivered November 20 to New Dimensions, located in the Ignited Ministries on Superior Road in Taylor. Volunteers unloaded a truck in the morning, and then, in the afternoon, loaded boxes into cars lined up all the way to Allen Road.

New Dimensions is a nonprofit organization that has serviced residents of more than 20 communities for more than 11 years. The food bank feeds over 2,500 people per month and offers a variety of referrals for community services in Taylor and other communities.

This time, families received 25-pound boxes of food, 15-pound boxes of personal care items, and even a box of Avon products.

Funding for the food and supplies came from the Pistons Care Telethon, a 17-hour event highlighted by the tele-

cast of the team's game on March 11 at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The telethon raised more than \$450,000 in pledges, which will be used to feed more than 25,000 Michigan families in critical need.

A similar delivery took place on June 11 to volunteers from the Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry and Game On Sports Center, both located in Taylor.

Feed The Children, founded in 1979, is consistently ranked as one of the 10 largest international charities in the United States based on private, non-government support. Feed The Children – with headquarters in Oklahoma City – is a nonprofit, international, Christian relief organization that delivers food, medicine, clothing, and other necessities to individuals, children, and families who lack essentials due to famine, war, poverty, or natural disasters.

For information about the group, visit www.feedthechildren.org. For information about New Dimensions, contact Donna Bridges (734-383-5658). □

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Letter to the Editor

Thanks for Contributions; More Needed

To the Editor:

I want to thank the contributors who donated turkey and food to the Helping Hand Thrift Shop in Romulus. Their generosity made it possible for Romulus residents to have a nice Thanksgiving.

Michigan unemployment continues to be high, and the need for donations is still there for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

It's a never-ending battle to make sure no one goes hungry in our community. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Harry Crout
Romulus

Editor's note: For more information about the Helping Hand, please see the advertisement on page 9. □

Romulus Board of Education Appoints Beard as New Trustee To Fill Vacancy

A vacancy on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education – created when vice-president Celeste Roscoe was elected to the Romulus City Council last month – was filled on November 30 when the Board appointed Romulus resident Theresa Beard by a vote of 5–0. Board secretary Sandra Crout was not present at the meeting.

Beard was chosen from among four other applicants – Keenan Brown, Betty Lenossi, Sylvia Makowski, and John Thiede – after an interview process that involved all five candidates. Each was asked, during a public meeting, a set of 10 questions developed by District superintendent Carl J. Weiss and Board president Cheryle Buckley. Board members assigned a number value to each candidate's responses, and the results were tallied for a total score – which,

however, had no formal weight in the Board's decision-making. The process was intended, rather, only to acquaint Board members with each candidate's background and ties to the District.

Beard did, however, receive the highest interview score.

Superintendent Weiss explained that, although the Board had the legal right simply to vote for any replacement it chose, members wanted to use a process that insured transparency.

Trustee Robert McLachlan said the Board of Education acted quickly to replace Roscoe in order to avoid having the decision taken out of its hands.

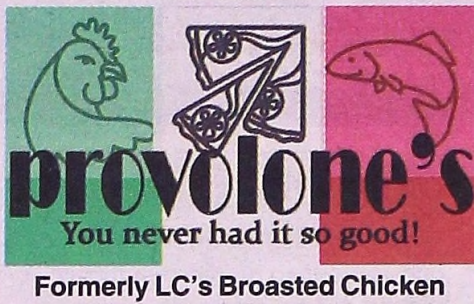
"By law, if we do not fill a vacancy within 30 days, we relinquish that power" to Wayne County, he said.

Beard's term of office will expire on June 30, 2010. □

Native American, Pilgrim Costumes Help Reinforce Lessons on the First Thanksgiving



An annual Thanksgiving program held on November 24 at Barth Elementary School in Romulus featured costumed kindergartners from the classrooms of Karen Richard (see above) and Shila Brim. Richard said the program was a great opportunity to reinforce the students' recent lessons about the lives of our earliest settlers. "They didn't have many of the conveniences we take for granted," she noted. "When the Pilgrims came, they were lucky to meet the Native Americans, who showed them how to hunt, plant, and build here. Their gratitude was the basis of the first Thanksgiving." Photo by R. E. Kadam



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ThanksGIVING in Romulus



The second annual Turkey Bowl flag football game between Romulus firefighters and the staff at Halecreek Elementary School raised about \$300 for charity. The game, held November 25, was won by the firefighters, 35-14.



The American Progressive Association's annual Thanksgiving Dinner was free for the 200 friends and neighbors who came to enjoy it. The event was held at the Thomas J. Coleman Center on November 19.



Romulus House restaurant's annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner, held November 25, raised \$1,900 for the Romulus Goodfellows. Co-owners Basem and Samer Al-Nimri invited the community for a free traditional meal with all the trimmings, asking only that donations be made by those who could afford it. In all, employees and volunteers served about 400 dinners. Photos by R. E. Kadau

Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to *the little paper* at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, December 11.

Belleville

Service Remembers Deceased Children

A short but solemn program in remembrance of the community's deceased children will be held at the Angel of Hope monument inside Hillside Cemetery on Sunday, December 6, at 7 p.m. Candles, hot chocolate, and flowers for the dedication will be provided. Those who attend are invited to bring an ornament to decorate the spruce tree located near the angel.

For more information, or if you would like your child's name to be announced during the ceremony, call 734-697-5090.

Huron Township

H1N1 Mass Vaccination Walk-in Program

The Wayne County Department of Public Health will conduct a mass flu vaccination clinic at Huron High School (32044 Huron River Drive) on Saturday, December 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The program is aimed at residents of Belleville, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Huron Township, Riverview, Rockwood, Romulus, Trenton, Van Buren Township, and Woodhaven.

FluMist nasal spray and injectable vaccine will be available at the clinics, free of charge, for priority at-risk residents based on age and health status. The targeted groups include:

- pregnant women,
- persons who live with or provide care for children less than 6 months of age,
- individuals 6 months to 24 years of age,
- adults (ages 25 to 64) who have underlying medical conditions, and
- health-care workers and emergency-response personnel.

The Health Department now offers preregistration for H1N1 vaccinations on its Web site: www.waynecounty.com. Residents are encouraged to preregister by downloading and completing the immunization forms, then bringing them to the clinic to expedite the vaccination process.

Romulus

Hypnotherapy for Weight Loss

A one-day hypnotherapy session for weight reduction will be held at the Romulus Recreation Building (35765 Northline Road) on Saturday, December 12.

For details, call 734-941-8665.

Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; read the suggested book, then drop in for discussion and refreshments.

Books planned for discussion include:

- *Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama (December 14), and
- *Forward From Here* by Reeve Lindbergh (January 11, 2010).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Taylor

Saturday Morning Drawing Program

A drop-in drawing program, sponsored by the Taylor Cultural Arts Commission, continues to meet at the Taylor Recreation Center (22805 Goddard Road, just west of Pardee Road) from 9 a.m. to noon each Saturday. Dates through the remainder of the year are December 5 and 12. The program will continue through May 2010.

Saturday Morning Drawing is open to adult artists – residents and nonresidents – of all levels of experience. Beginners are welcome. Emphasis is placed on drawing and painting people in any medium. Professional models are used.

The sessions are run in a college-level, open-workshop format. There is no regular instruction; however, help and advice from fellow artists will be available.

Fee is \$7 per session. For information, call the Recreation Center: 734-374-3901.

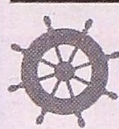
Concert Benefits the Blind

Penrickton Center for Blind Children will receive proceeds from a concert by jazz

flutist Alexander Zonjic and Friends. The event – set for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, December 13, at Royal Oak Music Theatre (318 West Fourth Street) – will also feature Nick Colionne, Thornetta Davis, the Barbara Ogar Flute Choir, and Men of Grace.

Tickets, at \$30 and \$40, can be purchased online at www.tickets.com or charged by phone at 800-919-6272. □

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During this holiday season, we would like to share holiday love baskets with at least 50 families with children or elderly this holiday season. Baskets will consist of essential food and household items that will help the family during their time of need.

Register your family to receive a love basket from Prevailing Ministries at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Detroit Metro Airport on the following Sunday Mornings (December 6th, 13th & 20th) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. For More Information, please contact our offices at (313) 896-4070. First come, First served.

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Golden Ark Masonic Lodge Donates Coats, Boots to Taylor School Children



Members of Golden Ark Masonic Lodge 595 in Taylor recently presented coats, boots, and other apparel to Taylor Parks Elementary School. Taking part in the presentation were: (from left) front – Masons Joe Molner and John R. Miller, and students Nathaniel and Bradley Hatfield; back – Taylor Parks teacher Trisha Bergeron; Masons James Collier, Bruce Ball, and William Clawson; Principal Diane Downie; and Mason Russ Ouellette, Jr. The idea for the "Boots and Coats" project – now in its third year – came from past Worshipful Master Molner, whose teacher daughter said that underprivileged students often come to school in hoodies and tennis shoes in the winter. *Photo by Dave Gorgon/City of Taylor*

For the third year in a row, members of Golden Ark Masonic Lodge 595 made a generous donation of winter coats and boots to underprivileged students at Taylor Parks and Blair Moody elementary schools.

This year's donation to Taylor Parks included 20 pairs of brand-new winter boots, 20 brand-new coats, dozens of used coats, 30 new hats, and 140 new pairs of gloves. The Masons also donated 14 new coats and 55 new pairs of gloves to pupils at Blair Moody.

The list of children who needed the winter apparel was compiled by staff at both schools.

Joe Molner, past Worshipful Master of the lodge and father of Taylor Parks teacher Trisha Bergeron, said his daughter told him several years ago that a number of students were unable to go outside for recess in the cold months due to lack of proper winter coats and boots.

"Many students would come to school in just a hooded sweatshirt and tennis shoes, even if there was snow on the ground," he said.

Molner initiated the "Boots and Coats" drive at the lodge to raise money for boots, coats, and other winter apparel. The Masons held fund-raisers and received support from the John F. Kennedy High School graduates from 1984, who donated proceeds from their reunion gourmet dinner to the drive.

Southland's J.C. Penney – staffed by friendly, smiling faces – helped out by providing the lodge with warm coats at a lower cost.

Sax Discount Pharmacy of Taylor donated the gloves.

There are more than 40,000 Masons in Michigan and more than two million members in the United States, including Bob Dole, Jack Kemp, and Gerald Ford. Masonry is a fraternity of men who welcome any man to inquire about joining. Masons meet in lodges in many Michigan communities, and have a long history of support for educational initiatives in this state and around our nation.

The Golden Ark Masonic Lodge recently announced that it would join a state-wide effort in support of elementary schools and education by pledging 1,000 volunteer hours to Taylor Parks and Blair Moody elementary schools. The announcement was made by John R. Miller, Worshipful Master-elect of Golden Ark Lodge, as part of a larger effort of more than 200,000 volunteer hours sponsored by Freemasonry in Michigan. It is believed to represent the largest volunteer gift of its kind in the history of the state.

According to the scope of the pledge, Masons throughout the state will collaborate with one or more schools in their communities, providing a variety of services from mentoring to groundskeeping. Each Masonic lodge will appoint a special coordinator to assist the school in implementing, managing, and tracking the project.

The gift is the idea of Robert Conley, Past Grand Master of Masons in Michigan. He has been largely responsible for securing the agreement of Masons to volunteer and coordinating this effort with the State Department of Education.

Those who are interested in making a donation to "Boots and Coats," may contact Miller of the Taylor lodge at 313-549-7620 or at javajohns@wideopenwest.com. □



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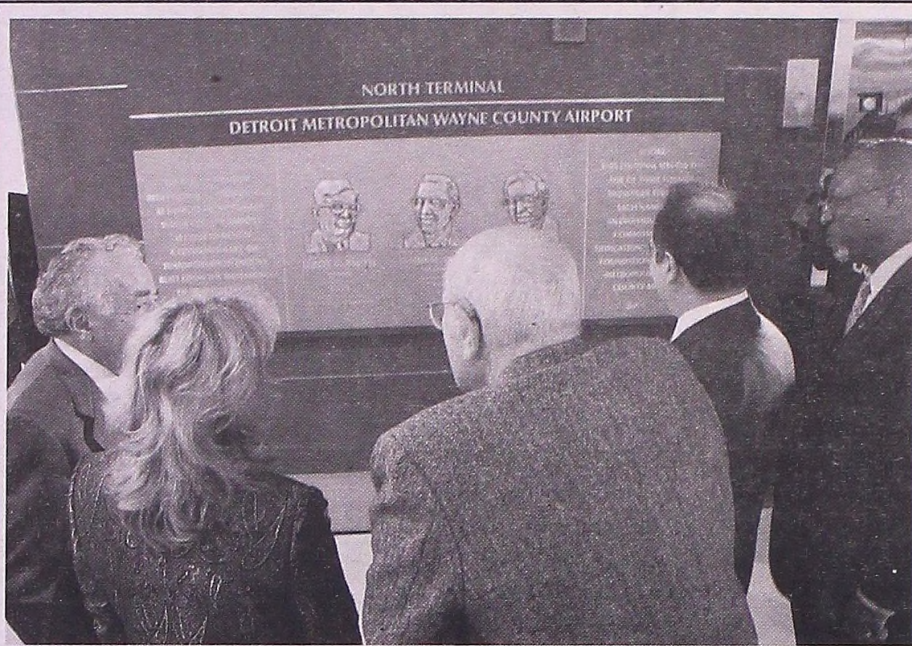
Donations are tax deductible.

Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

Metro Airport Unveils Legacy Plaque

Ceremony Honored Namesakes of Airport's Decommissioned Terminals



(From left) Michael Berry, his wife Cindy, Congressman John D. Dingell, Wayne County Executive Officer Robert Ficano, and Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson were among those who attended a November 24 ceremony to unveil a plaque honoring the legacy of Airport icons. Berry – for whom the old Berry Terminal was named – is the sole survivor among those honored.

On November 24, the Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), along with Congressman John Dingell and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, took part in the ceremonial unveiling of a new plaque honoring the legacy of some of the most iconic figures in the Airport's history. The ceremony was held in the check-in lobby at the new North Terminal.

"The three men honored by this plaque forged the history and built the skyline of Detroit Metro Airport," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "While the buildings named for them are no longer used as passenger terminals, their imprint on the history of the Airport will last forever."

The plaque features images of the namesakes for each of Detroit Metro's now decommissioned terminals, flanked by the words, "In 2005, the North Terminal Redevelopment Project at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport set out to design a contemporary air transportation facility built upon the rich legacy of Metro Detroit's many transportation innovators. Today, this terminal sits on the site of three former

passenger terminals, each named for an individual whose commitment and dedication remains at the foundation of Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport."

The North Terminal, which opened in September 2008, stands on the site of the former Davey Terminal, which was replaced by the McNamara Terminal in 2002 as Northwest Airlines' largest hub facility. The Davey Terminal was commissioned in 1966 and named for the late former DTW Airport manager, James M. Davey, who was instrumental in moving commercial airline service to the Airport at the dawn of the "jet age."

Demolition of the Davey Terminal began in 2005 as the first stage of developing the new North Terminal, which now serves the airlines previously housed in the former L.C. Smith and Berry terminals. The Smith Terminal, commissioned in 1958, was named for the late Leroy C. Smith, former Manager and Engineer with the Wayne County Road Commission, who was instrumental in the establishment of Metro Airport.

In 1974, the Berry Terminal was added to accommodate the growing number of international flights to and from DTW, and was named for Wayne County Road Commission Chairman Michael Berry, who expanded DTW as it became one of the busiest and most important airports in the world.

As the sole surviving namesake of Detroit Metro Airport's three legacy terminals, Michael Berry was present to accept the honor of all three gentlemen's legacies on behalf of Davey and Smith.

The commemorative plaque will hang near the elevators in the center of the North Terminal check-in lobby to remind travelers and visitors of the rich legacy upon which the new facility stands. □

Holiday Dinner Featured "Just Us"



On November 24, Romulus Senior Center programs coordinator Rose Swidan put together an eventful Thanksgiving program for local senior citizens. A pre-luncheon presentation by the Romulus Police Department on "How to Avoid Fraud" was followed by another from Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert and Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano, who talked about the planned Aerotropolis development and how it will affect our region. After being served an excellent meal of turkey with all the trimmings, as well as a sample of homemade ice cream by "Ice Cream Place," it was time for entertainment. "Just Us" – a local vocal group sponsored by the Western Wayne Family Health Centers' "Music is good Medicine" program – fit the bill. Singing songs made famous by the early Motown artists, they were a big hit.

Disabled? Social Security Can Help

By Rufus Gaston, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Metropolitan Detroit

Disability is something most people do not like to think about. But, the unfortunate reality is this: the chances that you will become disabled are probably far greater than you realize. Studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a 3-in-10 chance of becoming disabled before reaching retirement age.

Social Security pays benefits to people with disabilities through the Social Security disability insurance program, which is covered by Social Security taxes. If you qualify, you can receive a monthly disability benefit from Social Security for as long as your disability keeps you from working. The amount of your benefit is based on your average lifetime earnings. After a period of time, usually after receiving cash benefits for 24 months, you can also receive Medicare coverage.

When you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn credits. The number of credits you need to qualify for disability benefits depends on your age, and some of the work must be recent. For example, if you become disabled after age 31, you need to have worked at least 10 years, and 5 of the past 10 years. But if you become disabled before age 24, you need only 1.5 years of work in the past 3 years.

If you have a disability that makes you unable to work, the time to get started with your application is now. That's because it can take time to determine whether you qualify for benefits. It usually takes about three to five months for a medical decision from the state agency that evaluates your condition. Then, if your application is approved, your first Social Security disability

payment will be made for the sixth full month after the date we determine that your disability began. Medicare coverage generally begins 24 months, or 2 years, after you begin receiving Social Security disability benefits.

Given the time it can take, it's in your best interest to do everything you can to speed up the process. The best first step is for you to read our online publication, *Disability Benefits*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html. It will tell you all about the process, including what information you will need to apply for benefits.

Then, take advantage of our online disability starter kits. You'll find them on our disability Web site: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability. There is one kit for children and one for adults. Each kit is available in both English and Spanish. The starter kits help you begin the process by providing information about the specific documents and the information that we will request from you. We will ask for more details during your interview or when you complete the online disability report.

Take a look at the disability starter kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability, or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask that a kit be mailed to you.

Once you complete the online disability starter kit and you're ready to apply, the most convenient way to do that is online, too. Just go to the same disability Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability. □

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Maternal Grandparents _____
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Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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 Bride's Parents _____
 City _____ State _____
 Groom's Parents _____
 City _____ State _____
 Bridesmaids _____
 Groomsmen _____
 Date of Engagement _____
 Date of Wedding _____
 Place _____
 City _____ State _____
 Reception _____
 City _____ State _____
 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Obituaries

Pat Kovacs

Pat Kovacs of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, November 28, 2009, at the age of 64.

The daughter of the late Earl R. and Maxine M. McJennett was born in New Rochelle, New York, on Monday, April 2, 1945.

Pat was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother who especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. Her many interests included crafting, scrapbooking, hunting, and fixing things.

Surviving Pat are her husband, Dennis P. Kovacs; her son, Michael S. (Christine) Kovacs (Carleton, MI); her daughter, Paula A. Zasadny (Taylor, MI); 3 grandchildren; 3 brothers, Russell (Sherri) Strohm (Allen

Park, MI), Earl R. III (Irene) Strohm (Las Vegas, NV), and Brian (Pat) Strohm (AL); and 3 sisters, Helen Goddard, Janet (Richard) McKeller, and Nancy (Halario) Travino (all of Taylor).

Among those who predeceased her was her granddaughter, Holly McGeogh.

A funeral mass was held on Wednesday, December 2, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus), with Father John Currin officiating. Interment was at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery (Brownstown Township, MI). Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). Memorials to Angela Hospice or the American Cancer Society, or in the form of mass cards, would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Walter Rutkowski

Walter Rutkowski of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at the age of 81.

The son of the late Stanley and Hedwig (Matynak) Rutkowski was born in Van Buren Township, Michigan, on Wednesday, August 15, 1928.

Walter – the former owner/operator of Walter's Drug Store in Romulus – was widely considered an all around great person. A devoted family man, he enjoyed 53 years of marriage with his late wife, Sylvia (Zolnierczyk) Rutkowski, and there was always a gleam in his eye when he spent time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His hobbies included gardening – especially his lilies and lilacs – as well as flea markets, "antiquing," and playing pinochle.

Surviving Walter are his daughter, Carol A. (Ted) Gilliland (Romulus); 2 sons, Mark (Carol) Rutkowski (Romulus) and Gary (Barb) Rutkowski (Canton, MI); 7 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; and 2 sisters, Joann Rutkowski and Lucille Beltramo (both of Romulus).

Among those who preceded him in passing were his sister, Charlotte Kotlarczyk, and 2 brothers, John and Chester Rutkowski.

A funeral mass was held on Saturday, November 21, at St. Stephen Catholic Church (New Boston, MI), with Father John Hedges officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). Memorials in the form of mass cards would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Lois Ruth Ward

Lois Ruth Ward of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Monday, November 16, 2009. She was 81 years old.

The daughter of the late Charles and Cora (Howard) Cox was born in Dayton, Ohio, on Wednesday, January 11, 1928.

Lois enjoyed shopping, collecting crystal, cooking, and spending time outdoors.

Surviving Lois are 6 children, Kay Reynolds (Dearborn Heights, MI), Sandy Maas (Dearborn Heights), Ken (Jane) Ward

(Dearborn Heights), William Ward (Romulus), Joseph (Rena) Ward (Lincoln Park, MI) and Nancy (Alex) Longordo; and 10 grandchildren.

Among those who preceded her in passing were her husband, her daughter Martha, and her son Norm.

A funeral service was held on Friday, November 20, at David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville). Interment was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. □

Arlow H. "Hank" Worden

Arlow H. "Hank" Worden of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Friday, November 27, 2009, at the age of 83.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on Tuesday, October 26, 1926.

Hank was a U.S. Navy veteran and a Ford Motor Company employee for 35 years before his retirement. He enjoyed watching football and baseball, fishing, and riding his bicycle, and especially loved spending time with his family.

Surviving Hank are his daughter, Linda (Victor) Creager (Dublin, OH); a son, Larry

Worden (Hampstead, MD); a stepdaughter, Diane Holt (Henderson, NV); 5 grandchildren; 2 sisters, Irene Snyder and Gladys Hadyniak (both of Romulus); and a brother, Marvin (Bernice) Worden (Lake, MI).

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 3, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Robert J. White (Grace Baptist Church, Belleville, MI) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). Memorial contributions to the American Lung Association would be greatly appreciated by the family.

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